

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 An apparatus has host ports for coupling hosts to data storage devices. The data
3 storage devices are configured into logical storage units, and the apparatus is
4 programmed with a mapping of the hosts to respective logical storage units. The
5 apparatus decodes a host identifier and a logical storage unit specification from each
6 data access request received at each host port, and determines whether or not the
7 decoded host identifier and logical storage unit specification are in conformance with
8 the mapping in order to permit or deny data access of the logical storage unit through
9 the host port. For example, the apparatus includes a switch for routing the data storage
10 access requests from the host ports to ports that provide access to the data storage, and a
11 set of logical volumes of storage are accessible from each of the ports that provide
12 access to the data storage.